**Boyertown Area Senior High**

**Academic Senior Benchmark # 3 – Synthesis Essay**

Synthesis means the combination of several ideas into a single whole. The purpose of a synthesis essay is to make connections, and those connections show the relationship(s) between two or more works. You combine, “synthesize,” the information in your sources to develop *a thesis* on a topic. A synthesis *is not a summary of the sources*; it is an opportunity to *present your position on a topic using a variety of sources.* It follows that your ability to write syntheses depends on your ability to infer relationships among sources.

**Overview:** This assignment requires you to synthesize a variety of sources into a thoughtful, effective essay of your own crafted around one of the enduring understandings for Identity. *The Enduring Understandings are too broad to serve as a thesis for your paper. Narrow one of the topics to a focused, specific thesis that is supported by the combining of information and ideas from your sources.*

**Utopia/Dystopia: Enduring Understandings**

1. The presence or absence of meaningful human relationships defines the quality of a society.
2. Those who control the information control society.
3. Technology has the potential to free society or to enslave it.

**Requirements: In order for your paper to be eligible for a grade, you must:**

1. Write a 3 -5 page essay, not including the Works Cited Page
2. Include five (5) distinct sources
   1. Independent read MUST be used in the paper.
   2. Only one core novel may be used as a source
3. Include a max of two (2) in-text citations (quotes and/or paraphrase) per source
4. Type and format the essay according to MLA Guidelines
5. Include a Works Cited with all cited sources, each properly formatted
6. Submit it to Turnitin.com (with the Works Cited Page) by 11:59PM on assigned due date. Hard copies due on the next class day.
   1. Papers will be due within the following window (teacher’s discretion): May 11th – May 22nd
   2. Late Penalty: 10% per day, weekends included, up to a maximum of 50%.

This assignment serves as your second benchmark, so you are expected to demonstrate autonomy in applying the critical reading and research skills *you have learned over the course of your high school career.* You will *have only four (4) working days in class to research* and/or begin the drafting process. All other work must be completed on your own time outside of class.

EOCA Grade Breakdown: Cold Read Test (30%); Synthesis Paper 1 (30%), Synthesis Paper 2 (40%)